



Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Victim Services Newsletter

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Crime Victim Services

www.azvictims.org

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The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Crime Victim Services Unit is to effectively administer VOCA Assistance funds by ensuring appropriate and accessible services are available to crime victims, enhancing the delivery of those services through technical assistance, training opportunities, and promoting a continuum of care for every victim in every community.



New Program Spotlight

Free Arts of Arizona sparks the creative spirit in abused, homeless and at-risk children and their families to inspire and transform their lives through the power of artistic expression. They plant the seeds of hope and healing to help children build self-esteem, improve social skills, develop trust with caring adults, and learn to express emotions in a positive way.

Utilizing the generosity and compassion of hundreds of creative volunteers, many local and national guest artists and a highly skilled professional staff, Free Arts of Arizona has touched the lives of children and adolescents through successful partnerships with over 120 partner group homes, shelters and residential treatment centers throughout Maricopa County.

Since 1993, Free Arts of Arizona has provided therapeutic programs in the visual arts, music, theater, creative writing, dance, and culinary arts to over 40,000 children in our community. Their philosophy is simple: Art Heals!

To learn more, please visit their website at www.freeartsaz.org.

Advocate Academy

The Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS) recently held the second annual Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA).

Agencies from across the state were represented at this academy which offered the 50 attendees an amazing opportunity to live, work, study and interact with other victim service providers from all areas of advocacy. The 40-hour week-long course was held at the Radisson in Flagstaff, AZ and provided an overview of the entire field of advocacy to include a mock crisis exercise.

AVAA meets the requirements for 40 hours of core curriculum for pre-service training required by NOVA for the National Advocate Credentialing Program.

Watch for upcoming information regarding specific dates and registration information for next year's academy. Victim Service providers should mark this academy on their calendars and take advantage of this awesome local opportunity to train advocates.



(2005 ACVS AVAA graduating class)

DV Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Show your support for ending domestic violence by wearing purple through the month of October. Numerous activities promoting domestic violence awareness are scheduled during the month throughout the state. For an updated calendar of events visit ACADV's website at www.azcadv.org or call (602) 279-2900.

DID YOU KNOW???

Genesis of the Purple Ribbon: The Battered Women's Movement 22 years ago designated the Purple Ribbon as the emblem that represents countless lives lost to domestic violence. The explanations of why the Movement chose this color and when the formal use of the ribbon became widespread are various. However, one narration, believed by many, is:

"There was a woman from the Midwest in the 1980s, who had left her abusive relationship and had worked her way to being a director of the battered women's program in her community. Her batterer was in jail, but he had been released on a temporary furlough. During his release, he crossed state

lines, found her and killed her in her home. The woman's name was Lisa Bianco and she was loved and sorely missed by those who knew her. Her friends and family wanted to remember the life of this beloved woman and chose to wear her favorite color in her honor—the color purple.

This tragic and unfortunate incident led to the Purple Ribbon's unofficial use by domestic violence advocates before any awareness campaign existed.

From small beginnings are born great fruits, and this is very much the case with the Purple Ribbon. At the beginning, scant numbers of communities used the Purple Ribbon to support the victims of domestic violence and their families. Today its' widespread use has propelled the visibility of the movement to end domestic violence—regardless of age, gender identity, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, income, education and so forth. (excerpt taken from www.janedoe.org)

FY 05/06 DPS-VOCA Expansion Award

DPS is currently accepting applications for an expansion grant limited to applicants proposing services exclusively in a geographical region where they are not currently funded by DPS-VOCA. Approximately \$700,000 is available for all projects with an anticipation of 15 projects being funded. Applications must be submitted through the Web-based Automated Grants System (WAGS) accessible via the website www.azvictims.org no later than 3:00 pm on Friday, October 21, 2005.

Fiscal Year 06/07 DPS VOCA Award Process

Watch the azvictims.org website for the upcoming annual award announcement and criteria for the FY 2006/2007 DPS-VOCA application process. The process will begin mid-January with applications being due the end of February. More detailed and specific information will be posted on the website.

Annual DPS Victim Assistance Survey

The 2005 annual Victim Assistance Survey was made available on July 1, 2005 to 126 victim service providers in Arizona. The purpose of the survey was to identify gaps in services and victim populations that are currently underserved. The following is a summary of those survey results which assist DPS-CVS in establishing funding priorities for the next grant cycle:

Availability of Services

The crime victim services most often selected, overall, as always or usually available were:

- * Information/referral
- * Assistance in filing Compensation claims
- * Victims' rights advocacy

The crime victim services most often selected as rarely available and needed were:

- * Emergency financial assistance
- * Interpreter/sign language
- * Emergency legal advocacy

Victim Populations

The three victim populations most often identified as being underserved were:

- * Victims in rural areas
 - * Victims of stalking
 - * Victims of diverse cultures
- Additional information on survey results will be available by December 1, 2005

and may be accessed via the WAGS Public Forms and Information link.

Training Update Victims' Rights:

The Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services has scheduled three Victims' Rights training for 2005/2006 so far.

This interactive training is designed specifically for private non-profit agencies who are responsible for the front-line delivery of victims' rights services.

Training Dates

11/9/05 Mesa Public Library
1/12/06 ALEA/Phoenix
4/18/06 Pima Library/Tucson

There is no fee, but prior registration is required. To register or for more information, contact Crystal Reidy, State Victims' Rights Trainer at (602) 542-8456, or by email at OVSTraining@azag.gov.

For agencies that receive VOCA funding, this meets the DPS victims' rights training requirement.

Children of Incarcerated Parents Conference:

Breaking the Cycle: Improving the Lives of Children of Incarcerated Parents conference will be held Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix, AZ.

Registrations must be received by Prevent Child Abuse no later than October 20, 2005. Register on-line at www.pcaaz.org or contact Prevent Child Abuse at (928) 445-5038.

National Association of Crime Victim Compensation: "What Works: Improving Results for Victims" will be

held November 3-6, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This conference is for Crime Victim Compensation managers and staff who would like up-to-date information to improve the effectiveness and results of their programs. The conference will focus primarily on the knowledge, research, evidence and strategies that can be used to improve program performance to better serve victims of crime.

For more information or to register visit the NAVAA website at www.navaa.org.

CVS Update

Roger Illingworth, Manager of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Crime Victim Services Unit, retired from DPS effective September 9, 2005.

For many years, Roger has been a leading force in improving services to Arizona's crime victims. His leadership and his passion will be missed, but I'm sure you join us in wishing him all the best in retirement.

DPS Crime Victim Services staff remain committed to ensuring the availability of appropriate and comprehensive services for crime victims through the administration of Arizona's Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) program.

Linda Dickerson has been appointed as Acting Supervisor of the Crime Victim Services Unit until a new manager is named. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Linda or any of the CVS Staff.